--- 1/40th Pound - “Series of 1883” - 3rd BABN Contract (1878-1886) ---

--- *recess printed* in BLUE on *unwatermarked* vertical mesh wove - scanned at 100% scale ---

--- with 4 mm. red control numbers - 153 x 13 mm. - perforated 12 ---

The “Series of 1883” strips, occurring only in black (for domestic use) and blue (for importation use), are for use on 1/40th pound packages. The standard weight for *small cigarettes* at this time was 2½ pounds per thousand. If 2½ pounds came to 1000 cigarettes, then 1/40th pound equalled (1000 ÷ 2.5) ÷ 40 = ten cigarettes. Their length makes them a questionable fit on a package of only ten cigarettes.

John McKay records that 1,540,628 copies of the “1-40 Blue Ribbon, Cigarettes” were *recess printed* under the **3rd BABN Contract** (1878-1886).

3rd BABN Contract October 22nd 1878 control numbering **000001** to 1-**540628**

When the total printed reached 1,000,000 the control sequence reverted to **0000001**, as can be seen from an examination of the dated copies of the 1/40th pound blue stamps. Unless they are dated it is next to impossible to separate the early from the late copies. Perhaps the paper being used might differentiate the printings?

★**RC-83** - 1/40th pound, perf 12, control **609803**,
recess printed on *vertical* mesh *unwatermarked* wove, cancelled **8 ‘84** in October 1884

011588	11/83	RC-83	1/40th pound, perf 12, on *vertical* mesh *unwatermarked* wove, stamped **9 ‘83**
051902★	10/83	RC-83	1/40th pound, perf 12, on *vertical* mesh *unwatermarked* wove, stamped **8 ‘83**
609803★	10/84	RC-83	1/40th pound, perf 12, on *vertical* mesh *unwatermarked* wove, stamped **8 ‘84**
659649	12/84	RC-83	1/40th pound, perf 12, on *vertical* mesh *unwatermarked* wove, stamped **12 ‘84**

The control numbering upon reaching **999999** was re-set at **000001**.

★**RC-83** - 1/40th pound, perf 12, control **034250**,
recess printed on *vertical* mesh *unwatermarked* wove, cancelled **9 ‘85** in November 1885

1-**034250**★	11/85	RC-83	1/40th pound, perf 12, on *vertical* mesh *unwatermarked* wove, stamped **9 ‘85**
1-**324877**	07/86	RC-83	1/40th pound, perf 12, on *vertical* mesh *unwatermarked* wove, stamped **2 ‘86**
1-**357724**		RC-83	1/40th pound, perf 12, on *vertical* mesh *unwatermarked* wove

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★**RC-83n** - 1/40th pound, blue, *without* control numbering, perf 12,
recess printed on vertical mesh *unwatermarked* wove paper

The Budget of 1883 had introduced a special discriminatory tax of 20¢ per pound on *small foreign packs* of cigarettes (i.e. less than 1/20th pound). I wonder if the smaller unlisted "Series of 1886" 1/40th pound *black* perforate, inscribed **THREE POUNDS / PER M OR / UNDER**, the 1/40th pound *blue* strip, and the companion 1/20th pound stamps, were not designed to accommodate the 1883 *small size tax*, and to *actually fit* the 10 and 20 cigarette packages.

All of the stamps (bearing 4 mm. Gothic violet control numbers) seem to come from the "Series of 1883". In a similar parallel, all of the stamps (bearing the Lee Brandom 5 mm. Roman light blue controls) seem to come from 1880-81. I feel that these were prepared by BABN for Philatelic Exhibitions in 1880-81, and in the mid-1880's. Possibly they were prepared as 'presentation' copies given top noted philatelists.

There are a couple dozen examples in the collection all of which came from the 'Ferrari' collection purchased from Erling van Dam. None of the stamps in this collection dated from later then 1900.

★**RC-83 SP** - 1/40th pound, blue, perf 12, with violet 4 mm. Gothic control **5 1 7 4 7**,
on vertical mesh *unwatermarked* wove paper

File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RC_STAMPS \ 1883\ 1-40th blue],
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December 5th 2013, JBH